



The National Sporting Library & Museum NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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FALL 2011

Capacity Crowd Celebrates Spectacular New Museum and Inaugural Exhibition

Over 400 people gathered to celebrate the opening of the National Sporting Library and Museum's new Sporting Art Museum on Saturday, October 8th, for a Gala held on the grounds of the NSLM campus. Beauty, glamour and brilliance were found everywhere – from the dynamic drama of the party tent filled with radiant guests to the quiet power of art gracing the walls of the elegant museum building.

Guests enjoyed a preview of the inaugural exhibit *Afield in America: 400 Years of Animal and Sporting Art*, which features around 150 paintings and sculptures on loan from museums and private collectors across the country. Curator and board member F. Turner Reuter, Jr. met with guests and spoke about several of the fabulous pieces that grace the rooms of the renovated and expanded 1804 mansion. The works of Bierstadt, Audubon, Remington, Homer and Troye join that of lesser-known artists to illustrate how



American animal and sporting artists have developed a unique national style, an idea explored in greater depth in a handsome illustrated catalog with scholarly essays. Welcomed by volunteers in equestrian and field sports garb, guests were thrilled by the magnitude of what the National Sporting Library and Museum has accomplished.

Moving down a path past the boxwood gardens to a three-story high tent on the crest of the grounds, guests entered a stunning environment created by Virginia Fout of

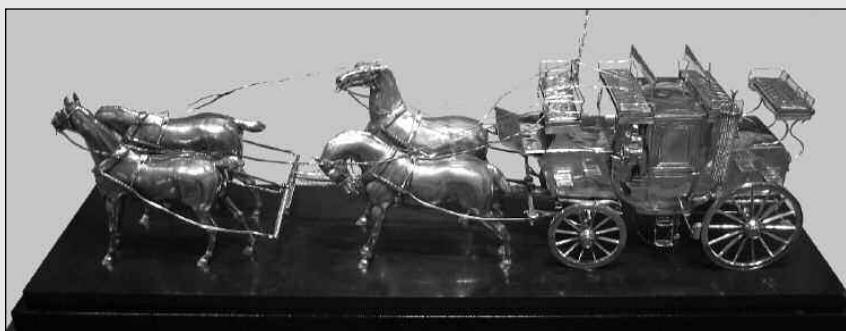
VProductions, Los Angeles. A native of Middleburg, Fout is a prominent event planner well-known for producing the annual Elton John AIDS Foundation Oscar party. Glorious bouquets were composed of two thousand roses, gifts from Ambassador Ivonne Baki, Ecuador, and Ambassador Luis Moreno, Columbia, facilitated by NSLM board member Hector Alcalde. Gigantic reproductions of illustra-



F. Turner Reuter, Jr., guest curator and NSLM board member and Jacqueline B. Mars, vice chairman of the board and Gala co-chairman

tions from rare books in the Library's collections hung from the ceiling to the ground in the reception area and draped over the dance floor. Large screens showed time-lapse video of Museum construction, as well as key images from the NSLM collections and history.

Jacqueline B. Mars, vice chairman of the board, and Anjela Guarriello served as the gala co-chairs. Their attention to detail was evident from the selection of the black, white and silver décor enhanced with glorious bouquets and exquisite images, to the orchestration of a multi-course



A sterling silver coach-and-four, commissioned by Alfred G. Vanderbilt for the dining table of his London residence, is displayed in the new Museum entrance. Made in London by the silversmiths White and Garrard in 1913, the model is a gift to the NSLM art collection from Hector Alcalde, Helen K. Groves, Manuel H. Johnson, Jacqueline B. Mars and Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom.

continued on page 2

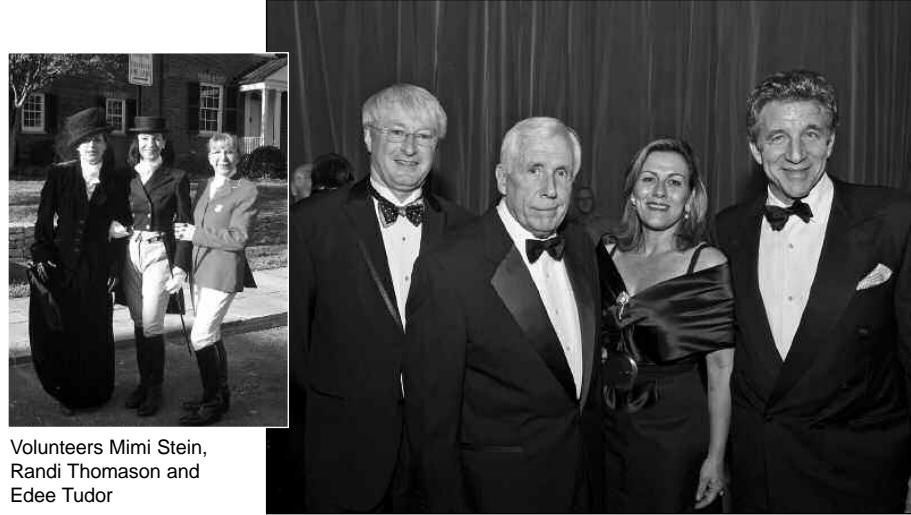
New Museum

continued from page 1

meal with brilliantly paired wines. Dinner was followed with the auction of an African Temptations Safari conducted by C. Hugh Hildesley of Sotheby's. Gala guests danced to the music of the Gene Donati Orchestra.

The NSLM also celebrated the Museum opening with a three-day historic Coach Event which included a Presentation of the Coaches at the Upperville Colt and Horse Show grounds where 22 historic coaches were on view for a large appreciative crowd. The coaches then headed for luncheon on the grounds of beautiful Llangollen.

Executive Director Rick Stoutamyer has overseen the construction of the new Museum which was designed by Virginia architect Hardee Johnston. Stoutamyer is enthusiastic about the Museum and sees it as a logical extension of the National Sporting Library which was founded in 1954 by George L. Ohrstrom, Sr. and Alexander



Volunteers Mimi Stein,
Randi Thomason and
Edee Tudor

Executive Director Rick Stoutamyer, Congressman Frank Wolf, Cate Magennis Wyatt, Steve Wyatt

Mackay-Smith. The mission of the National Sporting Library and Museum is to preserve, share and promote the literature, art and culture of equestrian and field sports.

Manuel H. Johnson, chairman of the board, welcomed guests with the observation that, "It is quite an accomplishment to create an environment that preserves historic

works of art and reflects the character it seeks to protect." On that evening, guests from around the United States and Canada celebrated the unique role that the National Sporting Library and Museum has created for itself in beautiful, historic Middleburg, Virginia.

(More photos on page 5.)



Mary and Manuel H. Johnson, chairman of the NSLM board



Virginia Fout, VProductions and Melinda Gable,
director of development, NSLM



Queenie and Douglas Kemmerer, Coach Event
coordinator



Visitors



Casey, Connor and Colbey Poe with Joanne Cole and Matilda Reuter at NSLM Open House



Gari Melchers Home and Studio tour group



Suzanne van der Weele, The Netherlands;
Hanina Hyde; Antonio Solis, San Diego;
Raymond Q. Hyde, DVM; Emma Johnston,
England, UK



Peter and Victoria Wright, Christine Hughes,
Mimi Abel Smith, Georgina and Charlie Arthur



Hannah Reuter and Henry Koehler



Tony and Navona Barham



Elizabeth Freire, Diana Kingsbury-Smith, Luiza
Olivera de Sousa and Dr. Pereirs de Sousa, Brazil



Jacqueline B. Mars, Robin Williams, Crozier,
Virginia; and Angelene Pell Jernegan, Rockville,
Virginia



Town Manager Martha Mason Semmes and
Councilmember Catherine "Bundles" Murdock



Farrier James Michels



Manley Johnson, Congressman Frank Wolf and
Rick Stoutamyer



Veterinarian Colin Peace, Ontario, Canada



Stacy Sheetz and Jackie Brown-Saunders (from
the right) of Visit Loudoun with Hannah Reuter
and guest journalists from the region, Texas and
California



Jill Garity, Diane Ingoe, Cle Toledano,DVM, and
Linda Devan, JT-MFH Fairfax Hunt



NSL's first librarian Lynne K. Dole, Lisa
Campbell, Mrs. Alexander Mackay-Smith



Directors of The National Sporting Library & Museum

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Aero Wins NSLM/Chronicle Cup, Virginia Fall Races 2011



Left: Donald P. Brennan, Jacqueline B. Mars, Ellie Gable, Melinda Gable

Below: Beth Fout, Gray Carr Bridges, Dr. Alfred C Griffin, Jr. (owner), Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom, Doug Fout (trainer) and Jeff Murphy (rider)



Campbell Elected to Grolier Club

Librarian Lisa Campbell was elected a member of the Grolier Club in October. Her nomination for membership was sponsored by Mrs. Frances M. Dulaney, a member of the Grolier since 1978 and a member of the NSLM Ivy Circle.

The Grolier Club is a society of bibliophiles in New York City. Founded in 1884, it is the oldest existing bibliophilic club in North America. The club is named after Jean Grolier (1489/90-1565), Treasurer General of France, whose library was famous; his motto, "Io. Grolierii et amicorum", suggested his generosity in sharing books. The Club's stated objective is "to foster the study, collecting, and appreciation of books and works on paper, their art, history, production, and commerce. It shall pursue this mission through the maintenance of a library devoted to all aspects of the book and graphic arts and especially bibliography..."

The Grolier hosts lectures and holds exhibits of collections curated by members, and larger exhibits in collaboration with other institutions. The exhibits and many lectures are open to the public. For more information on the Grolier Club, go to www.grolierclub.org.

John William "Billy" Abel Smith

John William "Billy" Abel Smith, husband of NSLM Board member Mimi Abel Smith, died October 4. He was 77.

The Abel Smiths have been strong supporters of the NSLM as members of the Chairman's Council and Ivy Circle since 1999. Mr. Abel Smith was a leader in the preservation of the countryside as a board member and treasurer of the Piedmont Environmental Council. From 1994 to 2008, Governors Mark Warner and George Allen appointed him as a Trustee of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation which promoted conservation easements.

Mr. Abel Smith resided at Hickory Tree Farm, Middleburg, Virginia, and foxhunted with the Orange County Hunt and the Piedmont Hunt. He had also hunted with the packs in his native England such as The Belvoir, The Quorn and Cottesmore.

Mr. Abel Smith is survived by his wife of 36 years, Mimi, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

New Museum Opening and Coaching Event



Anjela Guarriello, co-chairman of the Gala, Jacqueline L.Ohrstrom, member of the NSLM board and Christina Lizzio



Malcolm and Gail Matheson, Architect Hardee Johnston, Chairman of the Board, Manuel H. Johnson, and Paul Cronin



Executive Director Rick Stoutamyer, Kim Stoutamyer, Sonya Bernhardt, publisher of The Georgetowner, and Kelly Sullivan



Mr. and Mrs. C. Fred Kohler and NSLM board member Dr. Betsee Parker



Michelle and Tim Brookshire, Texas, Rose Marie Bogley, and Robert Haggested



Volunteers Matt Hannon, Mary South Hutchison, Bill Waller, Terri O'Dowd, Jeri Coulter, Edee Tudor, Megan Hubbard, Lindsay Berreh, Andrew Osborne (left to right).



Dana Reuter, NSLM board member Lorian Peralta-Ramos of Connecticut, Peter Villa



NSLM board member Donald P. Brennan, Pat Brennan, Eileen and Daniel Oakley



Fritz Reuter, Matilda Reuter, Jon Engle, and Hannah Reuter, curatorial assistant



The World of the British Sporting Print

By Corey Piper

Sporting prints are a familiar medium to many people. They are a seemingly ubiquitous feature of tavern walls and sitting rooms, but also appear in such unexpected settings as the background of paintings by Edgar Degas and on placemats at chain restaurants. In spite of their commonality (or perhaps because of) sporting prints have rarely been considered for their visual characteristics and serious art-historical importance. A forthcoming exhibition scheduled to open in the fall of 2012 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts titled *Catching Sight: The World of the British Sporting Print* will seek to remedy this gap in the study of this important genre of British art.

Research for this exhibition brought me to the National Sporting Library and Museum in the summer of 2011 where I was honored to receive the John H. Daniels Fellowship which allowed me two weeks to study source materials in preparation for an essay I am contributing to the catalogue for *Catching Sight*. The focus of my research was the broad spectrum of people that appear in the prints, from earth stoppers, travelers and huntsmen to poachers, cockney sportsmen and gentlemen. The period from 1750 to 1850 can be considered the 'golden age' of the British sporting print but was also a time of great social change in the countryside. The agricultural revolution led to large-scale farming and enclosure, transforming the physical nature of the countryside as well as the traditional rural economy. At the same time the rise of the sporting economy created new opportunities and roles for many of the lower classes who might previously have been employed in traditional agricultural work.

Such momentous demographic changes undoubtedly spurred friction as different classes struggled to define their place within the new social structure of the countryside. Sporting prints provided a venue to express the new ways that the classes interacted within the countryside while simultaneously enforcing the



Daniels Fellow Corey Piper, Richmond, Virginia

dominant ideologies that governed the agricultural economy. In addition to depicting a broad strata of society, the prints were consumed by those in the upper and lower classes as well as urban and rural dwellers. Therefore they can be considered not as the single perspective of a single class but rather a venue for negotiating the social order of the countryside.

While at the National Sporting Library I consulted many sources from around the period of 1750 to 1850 which chronicled the lives and professions of the types of people who appeared in the sporting prints. The sporting periodicals of the day such as *The Sporting Magazine*, *The New Sporting Magazine* and *The Sporting Review* were valuable sources not only for the wide variety of sports and people that are described within, but because, like

the prints, these magazines were read by a wide range of people and therefore offer numerous perspectives. Individual diaries and memoirs in the Library's collection also provided a range of perspectives from those engaged in sporting culture such as a gamekeeper in *The Sportsman's Directory and Park and Gamekeeper's Companion* of 1845, a whipper-in in the case of *A Diary of the Quorndon Hunt from the Year 1791 to 1800 Inclusive*, and a gentleman sportsman in Peter Beckford's *Thoughts on Hunting*.

The aim of this exhibition is to elevate the genre of the British sporting print to the serious consideration it deserves. There was a rich culture surrounding sport in Britain that was not the exclusive concern of the upper classes but involved many different people drawn from all classes. Encoded within the sporting prints there is a wealth of information about how the people in the countryside viewed each other, interacted and lived together. I am grateful for the opportunity the John H. Daniels Fellowship has provided to expand my understanding of the rich social world of the British sporting print.

Corey Piper, Curatorial Assistant for the Mellon Collections, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, and 2011 Daniels Fellow, has done research in preparation for "The Cast and Characters of the British Sporting Ring," a scholarly essay for "Catching Sight: The World of the British Sporting Print," the upcoming VMFA exhibition catalogue.

Daniels Fellows News

Best Seller THE EIGHTY-DOLLAR CHAMPION, by Elizabeth Letts. (Ballantine, \$26.) The story of Snowman the horse, the extraordinary jumper and national celebrity has been listed on the New York Times Hardcover Nonfiction Best Sellers list. Letts, a 2010 Fellow, in an interview with Glenda Cudaback of the *Middleburg Eccentric*, September-October 2011, credited the NSL's archives with helping her find the "color and context it (Snowman's story) deserves. I am so grateful for the time and the many kindnesses I was shown there."

Call for Applications The NSLM seeks applications for the John H. Daniels Fellowship which supports scholars doing research in the area of equestrian and field sports. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2012. For more information visit nsl.org.

Recent Art Donations

Arthur F. Tait (American, 1819 – 1905)

American Ruffed Grouse, 1856

Oil on panel, 7 1/2 x 9 1/4 inches

Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Greenan

Arthur F. Tait (American, 1819 – 1905)

American Deer, 1858

Oil on canvas, 7 1/8 x 5 5/8 inches

Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Greenan

Franklin B. Voss (American, 1880 – 1953)

Mr. Thomas' Foxhounds Leaving Huntland Kennels, November, 1919

Oil on canvas, 16 x 24 inches

Gift of Dr. Bestee Parker

Franklin B. Voss (American, 1880 – 1953)

Mr. Thomas' Foxhounds in the Piedmont Country, 1919

Oil on canvas, 16 x 24 inches

Gift of Dr. Bestee Parker

Franklin B. Voss (American, 1880 – 1953)

Polo Player, 1909

Oil on canvas, 18 x 24 inches

Gift of Dr. Bestee Parker

Book Review

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, by David McCullough

This acclaimed book discusses the American artists and scientists who studied in Paris and the effect the experience had on their lives and American culture. Diana Kingsbury-Smith reviews the work to highlight the animal and sporting artists who are featured. To read the review, please visit nsl.org and find the book and film reviews in the Programs section.

Featured Volunteer



Jimmy Hatcher, second from the right, with recent visitors to the NSLM.

Jimmy Hatcher, Upperville, Virginia, is an accomplished horseman and community volunteer. Hatcher has hunted with the Piedmont Foxhounds and the Middleburg Hunt. He is a past American Horse Show Association Recognized Judge. For three years, Hatcher co-chaired the Hunt Country Stable Tour presented by Trinity Episcopal Church and also served on the church vestry. Hatcher has brought many visitors to the new Museum and enriched their appreciation of the exhibit *Afield in America*.

Recent Book Donations

Natalie Walton – 11 children's books, 9 of them signed by author Paul Brown.

Virginia Fout – 51 children's and equestrian books, including *The Anatomy of the Horse* by George Stubbs (1976) and *Pal O'Mine* by Clarence Hawkes (1925).

Diana Kingsbury-Smith Keesee – 34 African, animal and art books, including *Audubon Birds* by Donald A. Shelley (1946) and *The Science of Life* by H.G. Wells (1939).

William M. Klimon – 59 hunting, fishing and equestrian books including a signed copy of *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand (2001) and a signed copy of *The Art of Robert Bateman* by Ramsay Derry (1981).

George Masek – 11 U.S. Polo Association Yearbooks from the 1960's and 1970's and *The Cavalry Journal* (1907).

Ellie Spencer – 15 equestrian books including a signed copy of *Practical Eventing* by Sally O'Connor (1980).

Lindsay Berreth – 26 equestrian books including *The Spirit of the Performance Horse* by Tammy LeRoy (2003) and 11 Threshold Picture Guides.

Henry D. Barratt – 100 equestrian and foxhunting books from the estate of his brother, Norris Barrat, including *An American Four-In-Hand In Britain* by Andrew Carnegie (1883) and *The Chase* by William Sommerville (1804).

The Chronicle of the Horse – 5 newly-released equestrian books, including *40 Fundamentals of English Riding* by Holly McNeil (2011) and *Affirmed* by Lou Sahadi (2011).

Lendon Gray – *The Horse Owner's Friend* by Dr. L. R. Herrick (1871).

National Steeplechase Association – *American Steeplechasing 2011*.

The Peregrine Fund, John R. Swift - *Bibliotheca accipitraria ii*, edited by William G. Mattox (2011).

Bob Jennings - Three commemorative books of Jennings' photographs of coaching events including *The National Sporting Library 50th Anniversary Coaching Drive October 22-23, 2004*, *Coaching in the Berkshires 2008*, and *Coaching in America*.

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The 2011 Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council

The National Sporting Library & Museum wishes to recognize and thank the following Ivy Circle members whose donations are \$5,000 and above, and the Chairman's Council members whose donations are \$2,500 and above. These contributions form the foundation of financial support for the NSLM's operations. We are grateful for gifts at all levels, and we thank our many donors and friends.

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